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OCI No. 1663/65

State Dept. review completed

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
10 May 1965

ARMY review(s) completed.

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #199 - Summary of the Situation
from 9:00 pm EDT - 5:00 AM EDT)

1. Rebel sniper activity increased somewhat in Santo Domingo during the night. Several cease-fire violations occurred resulting in another US death, and two more wounded in action. An unconfirmed report states that three navy men were captured by the rebels. US casualties total 14 dead and 72 wounded in action.

2. At 7:00 pm EDT on 9 May, the Dominican army transportation battalion located four blocks north of the Hippodrome in the northwestern area of the city was attacked by about 50 rebels who were repulsed by loyalist forces. There were no loyalist casualties reported.

3. Today may be an important day for the Imbert government since it has appealed to all workers to return to their jobs. Loyalist officials have arranged to borrow 700,000 pesos from two Dominican banks to pay government day laborers and the salaried employee payroll for 15-25 April. This move will be an important psychological weapon for the new government and could take much steam out of a reported rebel plan to launch a series of strikes beginning on 10 May.

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5. The Chief of the US Military Aid Advisory Group (MAAG) received a report [redacted] on the afternoon of 9 May that the airfield in Santiago was to be attacked by rebel forces during the evening. According to the source, machineguns were being loaded in vehicles in Santo Domingo to be transported to Santiago. The source alleged that civilians in Santo Domingo were being forced to aid the rebels and that frogmen were directing the effort. Reportedly checkpoints were not stopping vehicles leaving Santo Domingo. MAAG informed the Dominican air force, which was preparing to intercept the rebels prior to their arrival in Santiago. As of 5:00 am EDT we have received no further information concerning the planned attack.

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6. The US Embassy feels that Julio Postigo is a key man in the Government of National Reconstruction (GNR). Postigo, a friend of Juan Bosch and his Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), embodies a good argument against rebel claims that the GNR is only the latest attempt by the oligarchy to suppress the Dominican people. The rebels first charged that Postigo was being held prisoner at San Isidro. Later, the rebel radio broadcast appeals from supposed church friends of Postigo asking him to reconsider his position. The Embassy feels that Postigo will undoubtedly be a voice of moderation and good will within the GNR. Generally quiet and unaggressive, Postigo is not without a touch of desire to be in the center of things in addition to feeling a strong sense of civic responsibility. Although he is neither an effective administrator nor a strong, charismatic personality, Postigo can be hard on points he considers important.

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10. Havana Radio charged this morning that US forces in the Dominican Republic were "forcibly recruiting civilians to fight against the Constitutionalist forces." Havana asserted that the US Marines are trying to justify this recruiting by claiming it is for sanitation work and projects connected with the country's economic rehabilitation.

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